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# Parents AND 4-H CLUB WORK

Findings From an Extension Study  
Made in Massachusetts, Maine, New  
Hampshire, and Ohio

For Local Leaders and Extension  
Workers as a Help in Getting Parent  
Cooperation

United States Department of Agriculture  
WASHINGTON D.C.

PA-95

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From previous studies and opinions of  
4-H leaders we know that

*good 4-H Clubs need-*

1. favorable  
PARENT  
ATTITUDE  
and INTEREST



*and*

2. active  
PARENT  
COOPERATION.



We wanted to find out  
*what encourages parents to support 4-H?*

The study proved that-

1. the LEADERS' ATTITUDE and
2. special 4-H ACTIVITIES of interest  
to parents

*promote*



PARENT COOPERATION.

# *There were FOUR GROUPS OF LEADERS*

*according to their attitude.<sup>1</sup>*

*GROUP 1.* Many expect parents to be very interested and active in everything the club and its members do.

*GROUP 2.* Others wish them to be very interested only in project work.

*GROUP 3.* Still others want parents to be interested in and helpful with club activities only.

*GROUP 4.* But a large number expect help only with the ordinary chores of club work.

All leaders do not expect the same thing of parents.

*Leaders in Group 1 got the best parent attitude and interest and the most active cooperation.*

<sup>1</sup> It is recognized that the leaders' attitude will vary according to local problems, training, and policies of the Extension staff.

*These are the ACTIVITIES  
that interest or inform  
parents:*

Holding regular meetings  
in parents' homes.<sup>2</sup>



Having special social  
events with parents.<sup>2</sup>



Holding other special  
events for parents.



Holding several public or  
community events to which  
parents are invited.



Both leaders and members  
inviting parents to meetings.



<sup>2</sup> *These first two activities seem to be  
of particular importance.*

Leader visiting parents at least once a year.



Conducting tours to members' homes.



Getting consent of each parent for children's joining clubs.



Personally appealing to parents for help.



Discussing objectives and projects at meetings.



Taking advantage of chance contacts to talk 4-H.



Giving recognition and appreciation to parents.



PARENTS *will help the* LEADER  
with all phases of 4-H work if  
first interested and informed.

More than  $3/4$  of the parents are  
willing to -

- Attend special 4-H events.
- Attend 4-H exhibits.
- Attend regular club meetings.
- Discuss with local leaders how they can help.
- Have 4-H meetings in their homes.
- Provide transportation for members.

*But - only  $1/8$   
to  $1/2$  of them  
actually DO!*



From 1/2 to 2/3 of the parents are willing to~

- Help leader plan program.
- Get parents together to discuss 4-H.
- Help leader teach project work.
- Take part in 4-H meeting programs.

*But - hardly any of them actually DO!*



About 1/3 of the parents are willing to~

- Serve as 4-H leader.
- Serve on 4-H Council.

*But - only 1 out of 100 actually DO!*



PARENTS *will help their* 4-H'ers  
with project work and other farm  
and home activities.

**All or nearly all of the parents are  
willing to-**

- Help members select project.
- Help members get material for project.
- Help members with their project.
- Help members with their project records.
- Encourage members to take part in  
4-H activities.

**But only 1/2 to 2/3 are already  
doing so.**

**85 % of the parents are willing to-**

- Read 4-H news articles.
- Read all 4-H material sent them.
- Listen to 4-H programs on the radio.

**But only 1/2 of the parents are  
already doing so.**



It is generally recognized that parent cooperation is helpful to 4-H Club work. But how much help and what kind of cooperation works best has been a problem for many years.

In an effort to solve this problem, a committee of State and Federal Extension workers planned and conducted this cooperative study. In 9 counties of Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, and Ohio, 458 parents and 152 leaders were interviewed by county, State, and Federal Extension workers during the winter and spring of 1947. A statistical summary and complete report entitled "A Study of How To Get Parent Cooperation in 4-H Club Work" (U.S. Dept. Agr. Ext. Serv. Cir. 399) gives detailed results, methods, and procedures. It is available for reference in land-grant college and experiment-station libraries.

The purpose of this present booklet is to serve as a guide to discussions at 4-H leader-training meetings.

The following committee of extension workers was responsible for the study:

K. C. Lovejoy, Maine, Chairman,

Tena Bishop, Massachusetts,

L. F. Kinney, Jr., Rhode Island,

C. C. Lang, Ohio,

Harley Leland, Massachusetts,

C. B. Wadleigh, New Hampshire,

Mrs. Laurel Sabrosky, U. S. Department of  
Agriculture, consultant and statistical  
analyst,

E. W. Aiton, U. S. Department of Agriculture,  
coordinator and editor of this booklet.

Other extension staff members in each State  
assisted with the field work.

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This is a slight revision of the original booklet printed in 1947. At that time, printing was arranged by the National Committee on Boys and Girls Club Work, Inc., Chicago, Ill.

Visual presentation by Gertrude L. Power and Margaret F. Madden,  
Extension Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

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INFORM PARENTS

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ASK PARENTS

=

PARENT  
COOPERATION

Dear 4-H Leaders-



1. Call on the parents of all your members.
2. Talk with the parents about 4-H work whenever you see them.
3. Hold club meetings in the homes when possible.
4. Arrange for a tour to all members' homes.
5. Help your members to entertain parents. Include them in activities and events.
6. Ask parents to help you.
7. Praise and give thanks freely.

